PANS Eaglet

The official newsletter of the Polish-American Numismatic Society

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Welcome to the third issue of PANS Eaglet, a digital publication of the Polish American Numismatic Society! Please tell us what you'd like to see in future issues.

Commemorating Poland's First Queen / King

By Mark Benvenuto

Poland under Communist rule had an extensive commemorative coin program, one that often emphasized the leaders and heroes of Poland. Towards the end of that chapter in Poland's history, the mint produced a 100 Zlotych piece honoring the nation's monarch, Jadwiga. The piece, shown here, shows both an image of the monarch, as well as the years in which she reigned.

Curiously, the coin leaves off the title "king" or "queen." According to different sources, although Jadwiga was a woman, she was crowned king on 16 October 1384, perhaps because of the nobility being opposed to her intended husband – or perhaps to emphasize that she was queen regnant. This latter title refers to a woman who reigns where there would normally be a king. The most recent, and perhaps obvious example, was Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain.

These 100 zlotych pieces are quite affordable, assuming we can find one in some world coin dealer's stock. Good luck to anyone who takes up this particular challenge.

► Spot prices as of 1 October 2024	
Gold:	$ 2,678.50/troy ounce
Silver:	$ 31.66/troy ounce
Copper:	$ 4.18/pound
Platinum:	$ 1,007.50/troy ounce
Palladium:	$ 1,042.50/troy ounce
$US-Złoty exchange: 3.87	

Have you been able to join us on the web? Try: www.pans-club.org. Or, on Facebook? If not, please go to Facebook, find PANS, and see what events are coming up for our society.

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Polish-American Numismatic Society meets monthly at: American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple Rd., Troy, MI 48083

Congratulations to our scholarship winners!

For those members who are unaware, the PANS awards up to two scholarships annually, to students who are college bound. Part of the process is that students compose an essay for the scholarship committee to read. The winning essays are reprinted here. Congratulations to Christina Slobodnik and Martyna Klimecki!

Christina Slobodnik

Growing up in a Polish family, it can often be difficult to not pick up any of the language, spirit or traditions, or even the hobbies of those close to us. While my talent in the Polish language has always been decidedly miserable, I was lucky to begin Polish dance early on, but I am luckier to have a grandfather and a father with many interesting hobbies, which include the coin business.

When I was about ten or so, perhaps a little older, I started to accompany my Dziadzia to the various coin shows he attended many times annually. At first, I came along because I was going somewhere with Dziadzia, and that was something special — it never mattered where we were going. But as I grew older and more observant, I paid closer attention to what he was buying and selling at the coin shows. Before that, I had only ever remembered seeing modern American money, and occasionally some Canadian pennies. What Dziadzia sold, however, was different. Some coins were old, some had strange foreign languages, some were very rare, and others were simply beautiful. When I expressed my interest, Dziadzia began to teach me about each one, little by little, and he told me many entertaining stories about these coins and oftentimes, the encounters he'd had with coin dealers throughout his life.

Many of the stories he told also included Polish coins, which led to an account of Polish history, which led back to tales of Jan Sobieski, Kosciuszko, and the courage of the Husaria, and the miracles at Częstochowa. Various coins and medals Dziadzia showed me included numerous Polish heroes and memorials of important, and sometimes sad, events of the past. And I realized then that collecting Polish coins was different from collecting other coins. The Polish coins came, unspoken but well-known by their collectors, with the history of Poland and its heroes. It came with an account of that heritage that we all were a part of, and it seemed to me to be a badge of honor worth its price, and not just a coin or a piece of metal.

Later, Dziadzia gave me an empty type-set book, which he told me I could begin saving my own coins within, and I started off on the adventure that very day. That was when he began to introduce me to many of his friends, which included his late friend Mr. Kaczor, and the members of PANS when we attended the shows in February and in August.

I watched and I listened, and I saw that it wasn't just the Polish coins that brought everyone together. The coins may have been the root and the purpose, but blossoming from that was friendship inspired by a treasured heritage, common traditions and the Polish language they had grown up with, and hobbies like coin collecting. I found that while everyone came together because of these coins, they were also there because they were Polish, and because to be Polish is an honor that only a fellow-Pole would understand. That thought gave me a feeling of close familiarity and belonging to Poland, and I loved that. Ever since then, I have found myself collecting history books, Polish dancer figurines, the painted Easter eggs called Pisanki and many other items, but also numerous coins and medals of Poland.

At this time, I will soon be starting my second year of college as an English major, hoping to get into the publishing industry and to one day perhaps become a novelist. But I know that no matter where my life takes me or how busy everything will be, there will be Dziadzia's stories, Polish coins and history, and a love for my heritage that will always remain here with me.

Martyna Klimecki

Martyna Klimeckioals for the future consist of pursuing a career in pharmacy. Becoming a pharmacist would include my passion for science and being able to help people. Another goal of mine is once I become a pharmacist, to help my parents financially.

PANS Scholarship, May 16th 2024

It all started in my sophomore year of high school. First semester I had Honors Chemistry. Prior to this I had not taken much interest in science, although chemistry changed that for me. The class included topics I had previously not learned about like the structure of an atom or the difference between an acid or base. This love for science I had discovered had significantly influenced my goals and decisions, like later taking AP Chemistry, AP Biology, and my career choice. My gey have given me so much over my whole life, like driving me to tennis lessons or attending my choir concerts, that it is only right to help them in any way I can.

Along with my love for science I have also learned the significance of Polish coins, Medals, and Polish Numismatic items and why they are items that should be collected. Artifacts such as Polish coins hold much more than just their monetary value. Polish coins hold value in information. A Polish coin from a certain time period can tell you about the state of Poland during that time. This can be seen with the "Polish Revolutionary Coinage Complete Set, Circulation Strikes (1831)", which includes the copper 3 Groze, the silver 10 Groszy, 2 Zlote, and 5 Zlotych, and the gold Dukat. All these coins produced by the Polish people during the Revolutionary war. Coins like these allow people to hold onto a piece of history and their heritage. The information held by these coins, contain the history of Poland. However, some people may say they can learn history from a book, but there is nothing better than to hold history or feel history through coins and even medals. That is why collecting such artifacts is important. Holding Polish items like these, helps preserve history and educate ourselves. Along with the informational value Polish coins hold, some coins can be worth a large sum and the investment is very beneficial.

The value of Polish coins has impacted my life significantly and this wouldn't be without the help of my father. My father has been collecting Polish coins since I could remember. Growing up and even today, he has always been involved by attending coin shows and searching among flea markets for coins. Polish coins have been something me and my father have bonded over. I'm always eager to hear the facts and stories he has to say about coins. I'm forever grateful that he was bale to let me discover a new passion that without his help, I would most likely never have.

As discussed previously, Polish coins are important to collect for their history and investment. And those are some of the main factors in why I'm interested in Polish culture, history and Numismatic is because of my heritage. As I'm first generation in America, the majority of my family resides in Poland. I often do not share the same circumstances as my friends at school who have all mostly had the past 3 generation born in America. Most, have all their grandparents living in Michigan and are only a car ride away. However, all my grandparents live in Poland along with my parents' brothers and sisters. I do feel disconnected at times to my family, although with phones its easy to call or text, its never the same as actually seeing them in person and is one of my main motives to collect Polish coins. It makes me feel closer to my family and my past. To think that some of my great ancestors could have used the very coins I collect, is something that I hold with great pride.

Once again, come to the meetings and win

Your PANS meets once a month, and is generous in raffling off one Polish coin per meeting. Why not attend a meeting, and see if you can add something to your growing collection?

First letter to the editor?

The following was sent to our president, Les Rosik, regarding an article in the PANS Eaglet

"Les,

Will probably not make the meeting… nice little bulletin… the article by Mark was sort of strange.. just cause it's round does not make it a coin.. it is a medal! Yes, probably one or two struck in gold as was the custom for church, nobles, etc. Unfortunately, the number of collectors willing to shell out big bucks for these is also quite rare.. since it is not a coin and not issued by the king.. probably will be hard pressed to get something more than 4-5x melt.. maybe $13K.. if it was a king, very different… would be interesting to see what it goes for…"

Editor responds: First, thank you for sending in comments. It's good to know folks are reading our new publication. Second, yes, our members are all aware that "just cause it's round does not make it a coin." But when Heritage decides to call an item in one of the most prestigious auctions in decades a coin, we will go along with them, since they are one of the biggest auction houses in the U.S. Third, since the estimate for the piece was $30,000 - $40,000, Heritage would have refused to sell if the price had been as low as our member suggests. It just would have been noted in a prices realized list as failing to meet the minimum. And finally, since this "coin" was auctioned about ten years ago, whatever price it realized is probably out there and available to the thorough, patient researcher. Thank you again for e-mailing in the thoughts though. As we said, it's good to see people are reading the PANS Eaglet issues.

Send in your finds.

Have you found any Polish coins of note, perhaps squirreled away in some dealer's stock of foreign coins? If you have found a hidden treasure, or one hiding in plain sight, e-mail Mark a photo and a brief write-up of how you came upon it. The PANS members will most likely be interested in hearing about it.